

Yes, we absolutely need to make sure that there is an efficient process in place to meet the critical energy needs of my constituents in New York City and in other large urban areas. However, that process must also be fair. It must protect the rights of private property owners, take into account environmental and historic preservation concerns, and not unnecessarily usurp States' rights. That's why I will cast my vote in favor of the Hinchey amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 540. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to the Pence of Indiana amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT CORY ENDLICH

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, with great sorrow I rise to pay tribute and recognize a dedicated soldier and citizen from my district. On Saturday, June 9, 2007, Army Sergeant Cory Endlich lost his life during hostile fire while patrolling an area northwest of Baghdad.

A 2003 graduate of Massillon Washington High School, Sergeant Endlich was a 4-year member of the Massillon Tiger Swing Band as well as a 2-year member of the cross country team. While many of his friends dreamed about becoming professional athletes, he dreamed of becoming a paratrooper for the United States Army. He was also a devoted citizen, helping in missions at home, including the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina before his deployment to Iraq.

This outstanding young man showed courage and a commitment to protect those who could not protect themselves. He had requested in his last letter to his mother for her to send coloring books, crayons and hard candy for Iraqi children he had befriended. Sergeant Endlich is a true hero and a reminder of the dedication evidenced by all the men and women all over the world fighting the war on terror. We must reflect on this great life and all the good that is being done in Iraq.

Army Sergeant Endlich and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, on Wednesday, this body debated the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the upcoming fiscal year. During debate, I offered an amendment which would have added \$192 million for the purpose of supporting and diversifying the core mission of our Nation's laboratories. Although my amendment did not pass, I remain strongly committed to the idea that a diversification of the mission of our labs is essential and must take place now if we are going to continue to face—and solve—the major national security challenges of the future.

The debate of the amendment brought up several misconceptions and misunderstandings, and I want to take this time to reiterate the purpose and substance of the amendment.

First, some said that my amendment would increase "funding for new nuclear weapon development." This is simply not true. My amendment would return spending approximately to current levels—thereby not providing for the funding of new weapons. As I stated in my previous remarks, my amendment would target funding for three programs, all of which support securing and maintaining our Nation's existing weapons and the core mission of the laboratory. In fact, two of the three programs—the Road Runner Supercomputer and the Science Campaign—help ensure our current weapons supply remains safe, reliable and accurate through computer simulations of weapons in the place of real weapons testing. In the past, I have expressed great concern with the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program, and I continue to believe that numerous important questions regarding this proposal need to be answered before it proceeds. I doubt our need for a new weapon.

Second, some said that my amendment could "terminate most of the Nation's nonproliferation programs" and that opposing the amendment would "stop terrorists from acquiring nuclear materials." This is also not true. According to the committee report, \$75 million of the Office of the NNSA Administrator is set aside for the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program. My amendment would have set total funding for the Office of the NNSA Administrator at \$215 million, more than enough to continue to fund the nonproliferation program. Further, my amendment did not in any way stipulate that the funding would come from the nonproliferation program. It should be noted that current funding for the Office is \$340 million. Clearly the \$415 million provided in this bill is a substantial increase for all programs. Even if my amendment had been adopted, the agency still could have completed these important tasks.

Third, some said that my amendment indicated that "jobs in New Mexico are more important than the overall national management of these sensitive national security programs." Certainly representing the constituency needs of the Third Congressional District of New Mexico is my primary concern. And, yes, those who would lose their jobs under this bill—technical, academic and support jobs in which many have spent decades—are worried. But let me be absolutely clear about this: Neither I nor a single member of the Los Ala-

mos community would for a moment rather protect these jobs than protect the safety and defense of our national security programs. The men and women who work at Los Alamos take great pride in their mission and service to our Nation. They understand the unique undertaking of the lab, and it is my honor to represent them.

Mr. Chairman, on Wednesday night I held a telephone town hall with the community of Los Alamos on this issue. During the town hall an informal poll question asked whether people support a diversification of the lab's mission. Eighty-four percent of the respondents—over half of whom were employees at LANL—supported such a diversification.

I do not believe that we must continue with a status quo mission for our national laboratories. Nor do I believe that creating a national security strategy in a policy vacuum without any regard for the needs of the future is the way to proceed. There is an absolute need, and, in fact, a great opportunity, for our national laboratories to diversify their missions and expand the scientific research being conducted in order to meet the challenges we are facing. From energy independence to health care to climate change modeling, we have the capacity for this diversification. I hope that in the coming months and years I will be joined by others who believe in this cause.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE- LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2764, the FY08 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and related appropriations Act.

I am pleased that the bill includes \$75 million in funding for programs that address the needs of Afghan women and girls including the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs, and women-led nonprofit organizations in Afghanistan. The Committee directs \$15 million of these funds to be made available as grants to support training and equipment to improve the capacity of women-led Afghan NGOs as well as their activities. This funding builds upon funding for Afghan women and girls included in an amendment that I offered to the FY2004 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill and funding included in subsequent appropriations bills.

During the past several years, the United States has invested in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan both because it is the right thing to do and because it is critical to our security. However, I, like many of my colleagues, am troubled by the circumstances facing women in Afghanistan. We have heard from Dr. Sima Samar, head of the Afghan